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**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE BILL NO. 440, SD 1
RELATING TO VACANCIES**

March 20, 2015

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 440, SD 1. The purpose of this bill is to amend the timing for vacancy elections associated with the office of U.S. Senator, to ensure compliance with state and federal laws regarding the timely transmission of ballots.

Currently, if a vacancy occurs on the sixtieth day prior to a Primary Election, the printing of ballots could not be completed prior to the 45 day deadline for overseas and military voters in accordance with HRS § 15D-9 and 42 USC § 1973ff-1(a)(8).

This bill makes the deadline for the vacancy "the twenty-first day prior to the date specified in section 12-6 for the close of filing nomination papers for regularly scheduled elections." This ensures that the candidate filing deadline for a vacancy is the same as regularly scheduled offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 440, SD 1.